desalination technology for conversion of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface sea water is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep sea water. This technology is efficient and suitable for island territories of India.

(b) The initial estimated cost of production of Kavaratti Plant was 10 paise per litre depending on the charges of power/electricity. The estimated cost of production of demonstration plant is inclusive of capital and other fixed costs. The operational cost of production is about 6-7 paise per liter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Currently, two plants are in operation. The first LTTD plant with a capacity of 1 lakh liter per day production of fresh water was developed and commissioned in May 2005, at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep Island. Since then the plant has been effectively working and catering significantly to the needs of the local population. The plant has so far produced over 155 million liters of fresh water. The Lakshadweep Islands have the advantage of ocean depth (~500 m) available within few hundred meters from the coast and hence, island-based plants are possible. NIOT is in the process of setting of 3 more plants in the islands of Lakshadweep of 1-lakh liter per day capacity, one each in Agatti, Androth and Minicoy. The target for completion of one of the plants at Agatti is March, 2010 and for the other two plants is March, 2011. Another LTTD Plant of 1-lakh litre per day capacity was also established at Northern Chennai Thermal Power Station, Chennai in March, 2009, which uses waste heat discharge from the power plant. A scheme is also being formulated for large scale desalination plants at the coastal power plants and the remaining 3 more islands of Lakshadweep islands which envisages Public-Private Partnership.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Hydroelectric project in POK

783. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan has decided to construct the Bunji hydro-electric project in Pakistan occupied Kashmir with the help of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has also promulgated the Gilgit Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order, 2009 as part of a reforms package for northern area; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Pakistan's Ministry of Water and Power and China's Three Gorges Project Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 23, 2009 for construction of the 7100 MW Bunji hydroelectric project on river Indus near Gilgit in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) during the visit of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari to China in August, 2009.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India protested on September 11, 2009 to the Government of Pakistan regarding the so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order-2009". Pakistan has for the past six decades denied the basic rights to the people in those parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir under its illegal occupation. The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order-2009" is yet another cosmetic exercise intended to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation.

Dam on Brahmaputra by China

784. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Remote Sensing Agency has tracked construction of a dam by China at Brahmaputra river in the Eastern Tibet Region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that previously Government had raised this issue with China;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Chinese Government has previously denied such construction; and

(d) whether Government has recently raised the issue with China under existing bilateral agreements and multilateral treaties on river water sharing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports to such effect. These reports have been taken up with the Chinese side, who have said that such reports are inconsistent with the facts. Government is not aware of any existing dam on the Brahmaputra River. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them. Government takes up all relevant issues relating to trans-border rivers with the Chinese side through the Expert Level Mechanism established in 2006.

Resolution passed by OIC

785. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: